United Nations A/61/595

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 November 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Capital master plan

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the fourth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/61/549). During its consideration of the matter, the Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the biennium ended 31 December 2005 (A/61/5 (vol. V)). The Committee also met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The fourth annual report on the capital master plan updates the total projected costs and provides information on various scope options, including security-related requirements. The report also provides financing options and recommends a five-year assessment plan and the use of a letter of credit as the most appropriate financing mechanism. **The Advisory Committee appreciates the quality of presentation of the fourth annual report.**

3. As indicated in the fourth annual report, the budget for the capital master plan project had increased from $1,587.8 million, as reported in the previous report (A/60/550), to $1,646.3 million as of August 2006. The cost does not include the scope options, estimated at $230.4 million. Table 2 of the report provides a summary of changes in construction cost, contingencies, professional fees and management costs, forward pricing escalation and swing space. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate for construction has increased by $4.5 million, the renovation cost estimates have increased by $8.3 million and the forecast for swing space has increased by $50.2 million. Paragraphs 19 to 23 of the report provide supporting details on the increased cost of the project.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General proposes that scope options related to additional security, redundancy and contingency ("back-up systems") and sustainability be added to the scope of the base project. The Secretary-General indicates that these items will not be readily achievable as stand-alone projects, and the capital master plan therefore offers a unique opportunity to make advances in those areas.

06-62841 (E) 271106

5. Paragraphs 26 to 30 and annex I of the report describe various elements of the scope options, including additional blast protection, additional redundancy, security, redundancy and contingency, and sustainability. The Advisory Committee was informed that the designation of scope options as tiers 1 and 2 referred to the order in which they had been identified and not to priority. The cost of scope options had increased from $161.0 million, as previously projected, to $185.5 million as at 1 August 2006. Moreover, a new blast assessment was conducted, which resulted in significant additional recommendations for structural strengthening for blast resistance; this brings the total cost of the scope options to $230.4 million. The Committee trusts that the Secretariat will be in a position to provide the General Assembly with such additional details on the scope options as are necessary and requested.

6. With regard to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 60/282, under all the options for funding the capital master plan that are discussed in the fourth annual report, the related expenses would be apportioned among Member States pursuant to the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. As indicated in the report, construction industry practice in the United States of America requires the building owner to demonstrate full financial capability to complete the project. To show evidence of such financial capability, the United Nations would need to be able to demonstrate the availability of funds for the project by such evidence as cash on deposit for the total amount of the construction or letter of credit facilities for the total amount of the construction project less cash on hand. The Advisory Committee notes that if all Member States were assessed one time and all paid on time and in full, a letter of credit facility would not need to be established; in any other circumstances, such a facility, which involves additional cost, would be necessary.

8. Paragraphs 37 to 41 of the report deal with credit facility establishment, fees and charges. As indicated therein, depending on the level of credit established and market conditions, the fee for a credit facility is estimated to be between 0.05 and 0.5 per cent of the value of the credit facility at the start of each year, with estimated total fees of between $3.0 million and $21.0 million. In addition, management fees and amendment charges may be incurred. These are not included in the indicative percentage rates and are dependent on actual usage. The amount of the fee incurred would be larger in the earlier years of the project and would be reduced as construction was completed.

9. As indicated in paragraph 38 of the report, the ability to draw down from the letter of credit facility would require specific approval by the General Assembly. It would be for the Assembly to decide upon the modalities by which such approval would be sought and provided. A drawdown of the letter of credit would be considered a loan and would therefore incur charges that would be in addition to the approved capital master plan budget.

10. In response to the request in General Assembly resolution 60/282 that the Secretary-General make proposals to ensure that any such charges would not be a charge on Member States that had paid their capital master plan assessments on time and in full, paragraphs 39 to 41 of the report describe a possible mechanism to achieve that result.

11. The Secretary-General proposes in his report that charges resulting from any drawdown from a credit facility be apportioned among Member States that have not paid their assessments for the capital master plan on time and in full — an exception to financial regulation 3.1, which provides, inter alia, that appropriations shall be financed by contributions from Member States. It is also proposed that assessments for the capital master plan be considered due and payable in full within 30 days of the date on which the assessment notices were issued (rather than within 30 days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary-General, as stipulated under financial regulation 3.4) (see A/61/549, para. 39).

12. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 40 of his report that in order to reflect the impact of non-payment of assessed contributions on the need to draw on the letter of credit, one approach would be to calculate each Member State's share of those charges monthly, based on the charges levied in that month and on its share of the total contributions outstanding for the capital master plan. In making such calculations, the average of opening and closing balances each month could be used to reflect payments made during the month. The Secretary-General would subsequently report to the General Assembly each year on the amounts incurred through any use of a credit facility during the previous calendar year and on its apportionment among Member States that had not paid their assessed contributions for the capital master plan on time and in full.

13. The following three assessment options are discussed in paragraph 42 of the report:

(a) *One-time cash assessment*. This is a one-time, up-front assessment for each Member State's share of the capital master plan costs, based on the scale of assessments in place when the assessment is made;

(b) *Multi-year cash assessments*. There are several possible scenarios for the phasing of multi-year cash payment options that assume that Member States will pay their assessments on time and in full. The Secretary-General recommends a five-year assessment period. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretariat intended to issue assessments a year prior to the requirement for resources. This would mean that assessments could possibly be sent out later than January;

(c) *Mix of one-time and multi-year assessments*. Under this option, individual Member States will each be able to decide whether their capital master plan assessment will be a one-time, up-front payment or will be assessed over a multi-year period. If it is decided that Member States can select either one-time or multi-year cash assessments, for 2007 the initial assessment will be issued during the first half of the year to allow Member States time to make their selection. For all multi-year assessments other than those for 2007, the expected date of issuance of assessments would be in January of each year. If Member States selected this mix of one-time cash assessment and multi-year cash assessments, there would be issues to be resolved, namely:

(i) Member States would have 60 days to decide which option they would choose. Once a decision is made, it will be irrevocable;

(ii) Gains and losses may occur as the scale of assessments changes between Member States that select a one-time assessment and those that select a multi-year assessment.

14. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the options of one-time assessment and multi-year assessments are straightforward. The option of a mix of one-time assessment and multi-year assessments would require a decision by the General Assembly on the issues identified in paragraph 42 (c) (ii) of the Secretary-General's report as a prerequisite for its implementation. In the light of the above, the Committee stresses that it is for the General Assembly to decide which option to approve.**

15. Paragraph 44 of the report deals with the creation of a working capital reserve for the capital master plan. The main purpose of such a reserve would be to cover temporary cash-flow deficits. Funds from the reserve would be used before drawing down from a credit facility. The amount of the estimated reserve is based on 20 per cent of the estimated average annual expenditures, totalling $45 million. The Secretary-General proposes that the reserve be financed through a separate assessment on Member States in 2007 and managed in accordance with the provisions of financial regulations 3.5, 4.2 and 4.3. The reserve would be phased out at the end of the construction phase of the project and the related contributions credited back to Member States. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the envisaged working capital reserve is an integral part of financing arrangements for the capital master plan and should be approved by the General Assembly.**

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its resolution 60/256, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of private donor funding to be used towards the implementation of the capital master plan. **The Committee expects the Secretariat to make efforts to attract such funding now that the Assembly has pronounced itself on strategy IV.**

17. Information on the status of appropriations and expenditures is contained in paragraphs 45 to 48 of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that the appropriation and expenditure figures shown in tables 5 and 6 of the report do not include the $8.0 million appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/238; however, the expenditure of $8.0 million is included in the total revised project budget of $1,876.7 million for the capital master plan. As indicated in the report, under the current schedule, the construction documents phase is expected to be completed in late 2007. The Committee was provided, upon request, with updated tables 5 and 6 from the report (see annex). As shown in the updated table 6, expenditures estimated at $115.1 million will be incurred in 2007 to complete the design phase and for the construction, fit-out and related requirements of a conference swing-space building on the North Lawn and pre-construction services, fit-out and related requirements of library and office swing space. This brings the total projected expenditures for the period 2003-2007 for the design development and construction documents phases to $193.7 million. Taking into account the total amount of appropriation for the capital master plan that has been approved so far ($152.0 million), the capital master plan appropriation required for 2007 will be $42.0 million. **The Committee recommends approval of the revised capital master plan budget of $1,876.7 million and of the appropriation of $42.0 million for 2007.**

18. In connection with the current situation related to an advisory board on financing matters and overall capital master plan issues described in paragraphs 49 and 50 of the report, the Advisory Committee draws attention to its previous observations in which it urged the Secretary-General to expedite the process so that

the Board could begin its work as soon as possible on a broad geographical basis, as provided for under the terms of General Assembly resolution 57/292 (see A/59/556, para. 12, and A/60/7/Add.12, para. 25).

19. The Advisory Committee notes that the Board of Auditors made a number of recommendations on the capital master plan for the biennium ended 31 December 2005. **The Committee stresses the recommendation that requires the Administration to ensure that amendments to contracts are in line with the United Nations Procurement Manual. In this connection, the Committee expects that contracts will stipulate that the United Nations will not be responsible for any delays on the part of the contractor.**

Annex

Updated tables from A/61/549

Table 5
Expenditures for the period 2003-2006 for the design development and construction documents phases
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2003[a]	*2004*[a]	*2005*[a]	*January-September 2006*[a]	*October-December 2006*[b]	*Total*
Design contractual services	612.1	9 573.9	2 724.1	20 363.9	4 544.4	37 818.4
Direct staff costs	1 611.1	1 720.9	1 458.3	1 277.5	336.7	6 404.5
Support costs	180.6	574.2	593.4	324.0	323.2	1 995.4
Operating and other costs	556.0	589.3	478.1	555.3	61.2	2 239.9
Programme management and consultants	245.7	2 378.5	752.9	4 290.0	1 615.0	9 282.1
Construction manager	0.0				2 000.0	2 000.0
Swing space cost	0.0		506.3		18 349.8	18 856.1
Total	**3 205.5**	**14 836.8**	**6 513.1**	**26 810.7**	**27 230.3**	**78 596.4**

[a] Actual.
[b] Projected.

Table 6
Expenditures for the period 2003-2007 for the design development and construction documents phases
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2003-2005[a]	*2006*[b]	*2007*[c]	*Total*
Design contractual services	12 910.1	24 908.3	5 816.6	43 635.0
Direct staff costs	4 790.3	1 614.2	2 272.9	8 677.4
Support costs	1 348.2	647.2	1 522.2	3 517.6
Operating and other costs	1 623.4	616.5	842.8	3 082.7
Programme management and consultants	3 377.1	5 905.0	3 175.6	12 457.7
Construction manager	0.0	2 000.0	0.0	2 000.0
Swing space cost	506.3	18 349.8	101 484.6	120 340.7
Total	**24 555.4**	**54 041.0**	**115 114.7**	**193 711.1**
Total approved appropriation				**152 000.0**
Appropriation required for 2007				**42 000.0**

[a] Actual.
[b] Actual and projected (see table 5).
[c] Projected.

United Nations A/61/596–S/2006/917

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2006
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 27 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you hereinafter a statistical summary of Israeli air and sea violations committed from 15 to 21 November 2006.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-63027 (E) 281106 281106

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities carried out from 15 to 21 November 2006

Air violations

Between 0631 and 0647 hours on 16 November 2006 two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kfar Chouba and proceeding north-west as far as a point east of Marjaayoun, after which they exited over Kfar Kila.

Between 1100 and 1405 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, heading east over the sea off Al-Biyada and circling over the southern regions, after which it left Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1405 and 1655 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, heading east over the sea off Al-Biyada and circling over the southern regions, after which it left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 0810 and 1150 hours on 17 November 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, heading east over the sea off Al-Naqoura and circling over the southern regions, whereupon it left over Aalma al-Chaab.

Between 1015 and 1016 hours on the same day, two Israeli enemy warplanes flew at extremely high altitude over Kfar Chouba and proceeded north in the direction of Hasbaiya, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1014 and 1110 hours on the same day four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the town of Kfar Kila, proceeding north to the Chouf and circling over the southern regions, the Western Bekaa and the Chouf, whereupon they left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1135 and 1210 hours on the same day two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, heading east over the sea off Tyre and circling over the southern regions, the Western Bekaa and Damour, then left over Aalma al-Chaab.

Between 1142 and 1332 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy warplane flew at extremely high altitude over Jabal Maroun (north-west of Borj Qalaouay) and proceeded in an easterly direction, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1145 and 1420 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, heading east over the sea off Tyre and circling over the southern regions, the Chouf and Damour, then left over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 1535 and 1800 hours on 19 November 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rmaich and proceeding north, circling over the southern regions, after which it left over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 2104 on the same day and 0001 hours on the following day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aalma al-Chaab and circling over the southern regions, after which it left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 0725 and 1025 hours on 20 November 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Al-Naqoura and circling over the southern regions, then left over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 0810 and 1120 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the southern regions, then left over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 1105 and 1215 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Al-Biyada and circled over the southern regions, whereupon it left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1655 and 2000 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the town of Aalma al-Chaab and circling over the southern regions, then left Lebanese airspace over Al-Naqoura.

Between 0805 and 1120 hours on 21 November 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, proceeding east over the sea west of Al-Naqoura and circling over the southern regions, whereupon it exited over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 1059 and 1400 hours on the same day an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, proceeding east over the sea west of Al-Naqoura and circling over the southern regions, after which it left over the town of Aalma al-Chaab.

Sea violations

On 17 November 2006 an Israeli gunboat fired 10 shots across the border in the direction of a Lebanese fishing boat far from the line of buoys. There were no casualties.

Field violations

Between 2035 and 2210 hours on 21 November 2006, opposite the towns of Aaita al-Chaab and Rmaich, the Israeli enemy, from its positions in Biranit and Al-Rahib hill, fired six illumination flares in the direction of Lebanese territory.

Other Israeli activities

Between 0300 and 0635 hours on 15 November 2006, in the open sea off Ra's Al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy gunboat fired an illumination flare and a number of rounds of medium-calibre machine-gun fire in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

Between 1115 and 1130 hours on the same day Israeli enemy forces fired a number of rounds from weapons of war within the occupied Palestinian territory opposite Birket Risha (outside the town of Al-Boustane). The reasons were unknown.

Between 1200 and 1530 hours on 16 November 2006, from the place known as Zarit inside the occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Ramiye, a bulldozer belonging to the Israeli enemy carried out excavation and fortification operations and seven persons conveyed in a Rapid and two pick-ups performed maintenance operations on the separating wire on the Blue Line opposite the towns of Marouahine and Ramiye.

At 0400 hours on 17 November 2006 an Israeli enemy gunboat fired an illumination flare over Palestinian territorial waters in the open sea off the coast of Ra's Al-Naqurah.

At 1830 hours on the same day, on the road parallel to the border strip on the Israeli side, between the towns of Kfar Kila and Aadaisse, an Israeli motorized patrol and about 25 individuals were observed apprehending a civilian, placing a bag over his head and leading him inside the occupied Palestinian territory. At 1845 hours the sound of an enemy helicopter flying over the same location was heard.

At 0245 hours on 19 November 2006 an Israeli enemy gunboat fired an illumination flare over Palestinian territorial waters in the open sea off the coast of Ra's Al-Naqurah.

Between 1900 and 1920 hours on 21 November 2006, from inside the Israeli position of Al-Bayad, opposite the town of Blida, the Israeli enemy proceeded to strafe the Nabi Shu'ayb area within the occupied Palestinian territory with medium-calibre weapons. In addition, the sound of machinery was heard coming from the said position.

At 2024 hours on the same day, the sound of light-weapons fire was heard coming from inside the occupied Palestinian territory opposite Birket Risha (outside the town of Al-Boustane). The reason for the firing was unknown.

United Nations A/61/597

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 November 2006
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 121

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 24th meetings, on 17 October and 22 November 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.7 and 24).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/61/129);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007 (A/61/129/Add.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the capital master plan on meetings to be held at Headquarters during its implementation (A/61/300);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/499).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/61/32).

06-63092 (E) 011206

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.6

4. At its 24th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/61/L.6), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Argentina.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.6 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2000, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005 and 60/236 B of 8 May 2006,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences[1] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reaffirming the provisions relevant to conference services of its resolutions on multilingualism,

I
Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2007, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[4] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265 and 60/236 A concerning Orthodox Good Friday

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/61/32).
[2] A/61/129 and Add.1 and A/61/300.
[3] A/61/499.
[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/61/32), annex II.

and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to the meetings of Member States;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations increased to 85 per cent in 2005 from 83 per cent in 2004;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met;

5. *Notes with concern* the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

6. *Also notes with concern* that, although the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services in the four main duty stations in 2005 increased to 87 per cent, as compared with 85 per cent in 2004, the figure is still below the 98 per cent provided with services from May 2001 to April 2002, 92 per cent from May 2002 to April 2003 and 90 per cent from May 2003 to April 2004;

7. *Recalls* that meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States have so far been provided with interpretation services on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore innovative ways to address this problem and to report to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

8. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 60/236 B, section II.A, paragraph 10, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies took place in Nairobi in 2005, but reiterates the need for vigilance in this respect, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-second session through the Committee on Conferences;

10. *Welcomes* the fact that international and local corporations and academic institutions are being allowed to host events at the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa after screening, on a case-by-case basis, by the United Nations Security and Safety Service to ensure compliance with the United Nations headquarters minimum operating security standards, which is likely to contribute to increasing the utilization of the centre;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to increase utilization of the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa and to align the methodology used to compile utilization statistics with that of Conference Services at the four main duty stations, including building on the cooperative agreement the Commission established with the Division of Conference Services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to ensure that the Economic Commission for Africa strengthens linkages with other centres and bodies;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, bearing in mind the headquarters minimum operating security standards, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session through the Committee on Conferences;

B. Impact on meetings held at Headquarters during the implementation of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach)

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the capital master plan on meetings to be held at Headquarters during its implementation;[5]

2. *Requests* bodies having their meetings listed in the calendar of conferences, when planning their meetings, especially major or high-level conferences, summits and special meetings, organs created under the Charter of the United Nations, their subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental organizations and treaty bodies that normally meet at Headquarters to take into consideration the limitations and inflexibility of the entire conference facilities at Headquarters throughout the renovation period;

3. *Notes in particular* that there will be noise during the construction, which will be carried out in the evenings and at weekends;

4. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat

[5] A/61/300.

on all matters related to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating the Headquarters activities during the construction work;

5. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that implementation of the capital master plan will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving maximum quality of services;

III
Integrated global management

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved across duty stations in integrating information technology into meetings management and documentation-processing systems and the global approach to sharing standards, good practices and technological achievements among conference services at all duty stations;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment of a regular budget technology post at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and other efforts there to share best practices, which are essential for the successful achievement of integrated global management;

3. *Reaffirms* that the major goals of the reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis, so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

6. *Recalls* section II.B, paragraph 4, of its resolution 60/236 B, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them as a key performance indicator of the Department provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluation in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

7. *Also recalls* section II.B, paragraph 6, of its resolution 60/236 B, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Committee on Conferences, on both the results of the work of

the task forces and the outcome of the ongoing consultations among United Nations duty stations on a follow-up to the recommendations of the task forces;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly apprised of progress made in integrated global management;

IV
Documentation and publication-related matters

1. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

4. *Notes with concern* the continued high level of late submissions of documentation by author departments, which, in turn, have a negative impact on the functioning of intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, through the Committee on Conferences, on impediments, if any, to achieving full compliance with the ten-week and six-week rules for the issuance of pre-session documents, including, where appropriate, proposed measures to address such impediments;

5. *Welcomes* the new accountability mechanism set up in the Secretariat for the submission, processing and issuance of documentation, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences for its further consideration and analysis, in order to provide concrete recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all official languages are followed with respect to both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222;

7. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265, that the issuance of documents on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(a) Summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

9. *Encourages* intergovernmental and expert bodies to include the above-mentioned elements, where appropriate, in their reports to the General Assembly;

10. *Reiterates* its request that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat, intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take steps to improve the quality and accuracy of meeting records in all six official languages through full reliance in the preparation and translation of those records on sound recordings and written texts of statements as they were delivered in the original languages;

12. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretariat to clear the backlog in the issuance of summary records, while noting with concern that some delays in issuance still occur;

13. *Notes* the options enumerated in paragraphs 76 to 80 of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

V
Translation and interpretation-related matters

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all official languages;

2. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make sure that terminology used in translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

3. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the accuracy of translation of documents into the official languages, giving particular significance to the quality of translation;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held twice a year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluation in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Notes* the efforts made so far to improve the rates of self-revision, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to address the question of the appropriate level of self-revision that is consistent with quality in all official languages and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

7. *Also notes* the proposal on workload standards to develop a comprehensive methodology for performance measurement and management from a

[6] A/61/129.

full-system perspective,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly periodically, starting at its sixty-second session, on the specific indicators proposed under the headings of timeliness, quality, financial performance and organizational learning and growth;

8. *Expresses continued concern* at the high vacancy rate in the interpretation and translation services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, especially the chronic difficulty in staffing the Arabic Interpretation Unit, and requests the Secretary-General to address this as a matter of priority through, inter alia, assistance from Member States in advertising and facilitating the conduct of competitive examinations to fill these language vacancies;

9. *Notes with concern* the high reliance on freelance interpretation at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and requests the Secretary-General to report on any inconsistency in quality of interpretation services related thereto, including at other duty stations, and on measures to address that issue, if needed, to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session through the Committee on Conferences;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide at all United Nations duty stations the adequate staff and grade level with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translations;

11. *Notes* the Secretary-General's plans to address the issue of succession planning by enhancing internal and external training programmes, developing staff exchange programmes between organizations and participating in outreach activities to institutions that train language staff for international organizations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance so as to fill current and future vacancies in language services in a timely manner, bearing in mind the persistent situation at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-second session of efforts in this regard.

[7] Ibid., para. 69.

United Nations A/61/593

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 November 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 146 and 151

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Letter dated 15 November 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

The implementation of Security Council resolutions 1704 (2006) of 25 August 2006 establishing the follow-on United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and 1706 (2006) of 31 August 2006 authorizing a limited expansion of the operations of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in Darfur will require extensive augmentation of the support infrastructure and the building of sustainment capabilities in both missions.

Despite best efforts over the past two months to manage within existing modalities, to facilitate and support within the envisaged time frames (1) the rapid deployment of police, military and civilian personnel and establish the necessary support infrastructure required in UNMIT, and (2) the rapid deployment of additional capabilities by UNMIS into Darfur, it is necessary for the Secretariat to exercise some flexibility in the application of administrative policies and procedures. I have the honour of informing Member States of the extraordinary measures that I have exceptionally authorized to enable the Secretariat to efficiently and effectively respond to the demands placed upon it in implementing Security Council resolutions 1704 (2006) and 1706 (2006). These measures include the following:

(a) The immediate reassignment of civilian personnel without advertisement of the posts and with, as appropriate, existing delegations of authority, pending completion of the designation process under ST/SGB/2005/7 of 13 April 2005;

(b) Relief from the present three-month limit on temporary deployment of civilian staff;

(c) An immediate increase, if necessary, in the not-to-exceed level of existing main-commodity contracts in particular for fuel, rations, water and accommodation, as well as an increase in the not-to-exceed level of global systems contracts used in support of both missions. Any increase in the not-to-exceed level

06-63205 (E) 291106

would be proportionate to the increase in anticipated mission strength for a period of no longer than six months;

(d) To enter into letter-of-assist arrangements with non-troop-contributing countries for the provision of immediate logistic support to United Nations personnel from contractors supporting the international security forces in Timor-Leste and the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) in Darfur. Such arrangements would be expeditiously reviewed by the Procurement Service and the Headquarters Committee on Contracts on a case-by-case basis;

(e) To enter into non-competitive, single-source contracts for the provision of logistic support in the medium term should this be necessary and should insufficient time be available to follow normal procurement procedures, subject to determination on a case-by-case basis by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and with the concurrence of the Under-Secretary-General for Management.

Under General Assembly resolution 60/122 B, $1,079.5 million has been appropriated for UNMIS. The Security Council in its resolution 1706 (2006) authorized the United Nations to strengthen AMIS and in this regard the light support package outlined in the Secretary-General's report (S/2006/591) is currently being implemented under the existing approved budget.

The initial commitment authority of $50 million approved by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for UNMIT has been incorporated into my report (A/61/519) requesting a commitment authority totalling $172.5 million for the period from 25 August 2006 to 31 March 2007. This matter is currently being considered on an urgent basis by the legislative bodies. Approval of this interim financing request would facilitate the initial establishment of the Mission's operations in the next few months, which would permit the formulation of more concrete and detailed budgetary proposals for consideration and approval by the General Assembly at the resumed part of its sixty-first session.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**